

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Ten poddlers, namely Liz, Linda, Alison, Geraldine, Fiona, Katie, Gordon, Sur John, John W and myself headed up Leadhall lane and Rossett Drive where John W with his superior local knowledge took the lead through the maze of streets to the Otley Road. From there down Harlow Moor, Dutchy and Kent Road which Alison named "the Old folks Home Route", past Oakdale golf club and up Jennyfields where Linda had a minor argument with a lamp post (no injury to either party) then past the sports fields to Penny Pot. Across the A59 and down West Lane to Hampsthwaite where there were no takers for the optional shorter route home or coffee. From Hampsthwaite to Clapham Green and Menwith Hill, back over the A59 and the grind up to Little Almscliffe followed by the swoop down to Beckwithshaw. A lovely spring day at last, it felt warm in the sunshine and hardly a breeze. Thanks to John W for sweeping. 25 miles. Dave G



Wheel Easy Ride

A group of 12 set off for Markington via Ripley along the brilliant Greenway. Chilly start warmed by the effort of a couple of hills. Unusual direction for this ride and for once we passed Fountains some of us (not me) spotted a huge hare crossing the road, there were a group of hares in a distant field doing Mad March hare type chasing around very interesting. Heading left through Aldfield and up the tricky hill past Grantley Hall. 500m passed the summit our cafe stop at G and T's ice cream parlour – teas, coffees, cakes some opted for door steps of treacle tart to sustain them. Beautiful sunshine and warmth at this point made us all feel very spring like although snow round Brimham reminded us of what had been. Beautiful swoop by Brimham and down to the toll bridge. Malcolm suggested an alternative to the hill known as the Birstwith B***** not my word! Left turn to go past Birstwith school and up to Clint Bank a good choice as it was more gradual and it took us passed hundreds of sunny, yellow celandines. Hopefully Kevin and his son enjoyed a rare ride together in stunning weather as did the rest of us. Such a lovely ride deserved a second stop at Sophie's for lunch topping off a perfect day, we went back down to Ripley and home via the Greenway. 35 miles Sue C



Four riders headed west with an initial goal of Timble for an early coffee stop. Richard was taking things steadily as part of his rehab, so Timble would give some short climbs to assess his progress. Conversation was lively as far as the drag to Swinsty. The talking point at Fewston was why it said "closed" on the narrow road to Timble. As the pictures show, we soon ground to halt short of the crest at too-deeply rutted snow. With the climb completed on foot after the photo stop, it was into the Robinson Library at Timble to join the Coffee Morning. At £3 for at least two cups and a good chance of several slices of cake, this was good value and good company as we chatted to locals. The group split at Timble, with Richard and Stewart returning to Harrogate to give Richard a steady 25 mile rehab ride. David R and Terry S decided on a Wharfedale outing with most of the usual climbs - High Snowden, Skyreholme and Stump Cross but, still concerned about ice, we avoided Beamsley Beacon. At Burnsall we opted for the car park kiosk for a lunch stop - cheese and bean toasties are to be recommended, popular with us and the ducks. Then came the climbs to Greenhow and back to town via Menwith, Hampsthwaite and Knox Lane. The stats: 56 miles; 3080 ft of ascent, says Bikeroutetoaster. Terry



EG's Ride

Ten riders gathered at Low Bridge in what promised to be good weather, some having divested themselves of their past winter garments, and some not. With good weather and BST it was decided to head for Bedale, this route has a few cut offs if things do`nt work out. At Farnham, Theo (now on gears) broke a chain stay. This was his day now decided, fortunately, he could limp home slowly as the chain under load held the stay together. So nine riders entered Spa Gardens Cafe for the first refreshment of the day. The tough guys sat outside in the sunshine, the ones with the sensitive skins, or a Transylvanian Allergy sat inside in the shade. It was here we picked up Phillip (a Wheel Easy rider, he`s paid his subs). Then it was North to Wath all ten of us. At Kirklington, Bob now on his max mileage since his op, turned back with Dave P to head for Skipton-on-Swale, Topcliffe and Boroughbridge. The remaining eight, Dave S, Dave W, Eric, Glyn, John R, Norman, Peter J and Phillip headed for Bedale or Edinburgh. At Boroughbridge it was a welcome tea and toasted teacake for two and a smile from Sonia, who was warned to expect eight more later, that is unless Dave W fetches them back via Risplith. More excellent cycling weather (hard to believe) over 50 miles a good one for Bob. Dave P







Another lock saga.

Approaching Sandy Bank @ 4.30pm on Wed. Dave W., DaveS. & Peter J. paused to consider how eventful this weeks ride had been and how much we had enjoyed our- selves. Nine E.G's had gathered earlier @ 10.00am & with Dave P's. guidance struck north for Bedale. The first of our gremlins then struck us hard. Theo's frame decided to part company with it's rear wheel. Various discussions ensued as to what could be done. This was a first!! No amount of head scratching could come up with an answer so we had to leave Theo to contact his wife to collect him together with his now defunct bike!

A brief stop was called for, by the remainder of the group, at the Sun Parlour in the Spa Gardens where we picked up another rider. A steady pace was made towards our goal but as we approached the road to Skipton on Swale two of our number, Dave P. & Bob S., decided to peel off and head for an early "bath". The remaining eight of the "peloton" continued to Bedale where another rider decided to branch off on his own. A search then ensued to find a cafe near the railway station in Bedale but to no avail so we headed off to the usual cafe in the high street. Lunch turned out to be better than anticipated. The service was very good once we had finally gathered all of the group together. After lunch was decision time. Some wanted to head down the usual return route through Kirklington & Skipton-on-Swale, others preferring to extend the ride via Thirsk. But oh no!! Yet another catastrophe stuck us. Someone had managed to leave their cycle lock key at home. Having locked 2 bikes together this posed somewhat of a problem since not only were the two bike owners intending to continue on different routes but of course unlike tandems siamese bikes are difficult to ride. A hardware shop was fortunately found nearby and the owner dispatched the bike lock with unerving ease. At last, slightly later than intended, we were able to continue on our way. Four riders headed for home via Kirklington, the remaining three struck east towards Northallerton & Thirsk. A good pace was established along the A684, continuing along through Maunby, Kirby Wiske and Thirsk. The weather unexpectedly remained dry and mainly wind free so the pace continued until we reached Boroughbridge @ 3.45pm. Here we met Theo who, noting the good weather had decided to venture out on his reserve "fixed" wheel bike and meet up with us. A gentle pace was struck for the remaining return journey arriving in Knaresborough at 4.30pm. Mileage covered obviously varied but the final three made about 70 miles. However Glynn. who had yet again cycled from Leeds must have completed several miles further. A great ride!!! --- Dave W